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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "After the earthquake came fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave."

You, O Lord, are the subtle inspiration hidden in our deepest instincts to seek out goodness and love and content us with the whisper of truth and presence.

Lord, if we desire You to be a part of our busy lives we need to find some cave of aloneness where we can heed Your voice and ponder Your Word with a clean heart.

Enable us and our children not to be afraid of silence.

Only from silence can come the depth of expression, the wellspring of beautiful and common language that will help us interpret all the sounds of our noisy world.

Lord, help us to keep silent so that we can listen better. Help us to abide in the silence of prayer so prayer can live in us, now, and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

HONORING EDGAR MAY

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a Vermonter who has dedicated his life to serving others, one who's made an impact nationally and internationally, but most importantly, in his hometown of Springfield, Vermont.

Edgar May has worn many hats in his life, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, a leader in President Johnson's War on Poverty, and a top administrator in the Peace Corps under Sargent Shriver.

I came to know Edgar May when we served together in the Vermont State Senate, where we reminded colleagues every day of our obligation to be there for average Vermonters. He earned tremendous respect for his ability to solve difficult problems, to temper emerging feuds and, most importantly, for the profound decency at the core of all his work.

Edgar has devoted his recent years to providing the people of Springfield with something they thought they'd never have, a downtown recreation center at the site of an old machine tool plant, a resource for all people of all ages and all incomes. The Southern Vermont Health and Recreation Center is a symbol of Springfield's quiet but confident determination to continue reviving one of Vermont's proudest cities. Its creation is a testament to Edgar May's perseverance and his devotion to his city, his State and country.

NEW EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION ACT

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Last night my colleague GABBY GIFFORDS of Arizona and I re-introduced our work site enforcement bill, the New Employee Verification Act, H.R. 2028, or NEVA. Our bill would create the Nation's first mandatory employment verification system for all U.S. employers.

The act achieves three important objectives. It ensures a legal work force, it safeguards workers' identities, and it protects Social Security.

Employers want, need and deserve a reliable employee verification system, and we want to give it to them.

Now's the time for the Congress to create a new way forward that prevents illegal immigrants from taking jobs from American citizens. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2028. When immigration reform happens this year, this bill ought to be part of it.

OPPOSING THE PANAMA AND COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to respond to recent comments made by the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Kirk, regarding the Panama and Colombia Free Trade Agreements.

In addition to the tax haven and money laundering issues with Panama, and the fact that Colombia remains the most violent country for trade unionists in the world, it would be a mistake to pursue these two unfair trade agreements as we attempt to recover from

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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